## Multiple Non-Source Contamination

By Sheri Bianchin and Carlos Evans



IC Roundtable April 4-6, 2006

#### General Rule

 Generally, ICs are considered when a site's selected remedial option (e.g., cap, natural attenuation or long-term pumping and treatment) leaves waste in place that will not result in unrestricted use and unlimited exposure.

 Selection of ICs are made on a site-by-site basis after weighing the costs and benefits of each IC type.

#### General Rule (Cont.)

- Four types of ICs:
  - Proprietary Controls (e.g., covenants);
  - Government Controls (e.g., ordinances, statutes or building permits);
  - Enforcement and Permit Tools w/ IC component (e.g., UAOs or AOCs).
  - Informational Devices (e.g., deed notices)
- U.S. EPA will conduct an analysis to determine if ICs should be layered (i.e., multiple ICs should be used).

#### General Rule (Cont.)

 Often, proprietary controls (e.g., restrictive covenants) are more advantageous than other ICs because they "run with the land," thereby providing long-term protectiveness.

#### Concern

- However, CERCLA sites (e.g., landfills) often produce hazardous substance plumes (e.g., ground water plumes) that contaminate multiple properties surrounding the source site.
- Sometimes less practical to require every land owner to record proprietary controls.
- Fifth Amendment Takings concerns may make proprietary controls more costly and inefficient.

### Governmental Controls (e.g., zoning and ordinances)

- Restrict land across a broad geographic area.
- Promote enforcement that is more balanced amongst Federal, State, Local authorities.
- Promotes efficient communication between government authorities.
- While "takings" analysis should still be conducted, many municipality authorities (e.g., zoning laws) are well established.

- What is the extent (vertical and horizontal) of the off-property contamination?
- Upon what information does EPA rely to depict the area of contamination?
- How variable and likely to change is the information about the extent of the contamination?

- Are there any pre-existing uses that are incompatible w/ restrictions needed for protectiveness of the off-property areas?
- Is there a comprehensive plan for land use and zoning that covers the area surrounding the site?

- Are exposure pathways (e.g., vapor intrusion, drinking water) for off-property contamination fully understood?
- Do existing governmental controls go "far enough" to address the Superfund Restrictions?
- Are other governmental agencies aware of the Superfund issues?

- How do existing governmental entities enforce the restrictions?
- Do issues such as lack of resources impact enforcement of restrictions?
- Do we need to enter into a memorandum of agreement or draft a communication plan between governmental agencies?

#### IC Options

 Ordinances / Regulations can be used for the purpose of notifying the public about contaminated properties and the restricted uses. It is best when these are specific and well-written.

#### IC Options

- For sites w/ a fluctuating plume or uncertainty in the extent of contamination, it is best to include areas of uncertainty and dates on maps and to consider these factors when selecting ICs
- Sampling & characterization, including plume stability and subsequent mapping of information is an important tool in implementing effective and appropriate

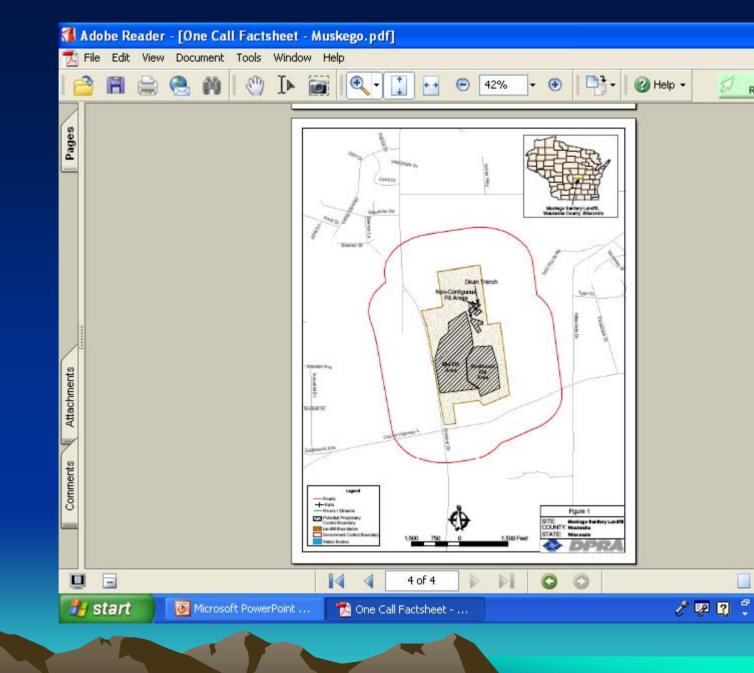
#### Other Considerations

- As owners of land that has off-property contamination are unlikely to be PRPs, EPA (or the lead Federal Agency at Federal Facilities) should consider conducting a "takings" analysis.
- Notice of responsibilities regarding use restrictions should be given to off-property owners before any enforcement action is initiated.

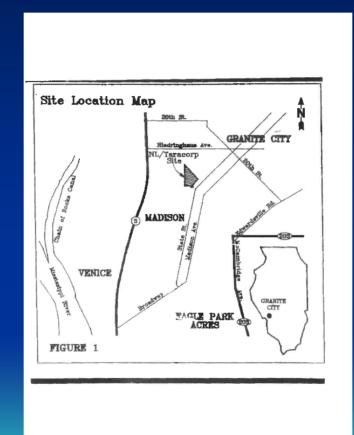
#### Mapping of Non-Source Areas

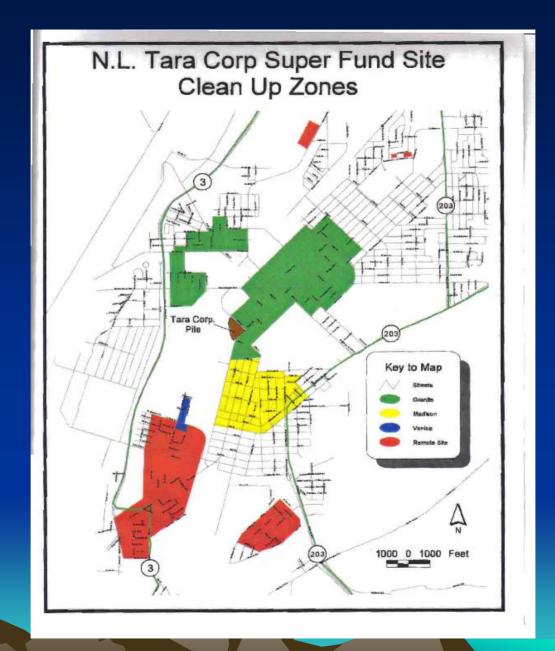
#### • EXAMPLES-

\*\*\*Drafts- not to be relied upon\*\*\*



# MAPPING IS CRITICAL TO UNDERSTAND LARGE AREAS OF CONTAMINATION





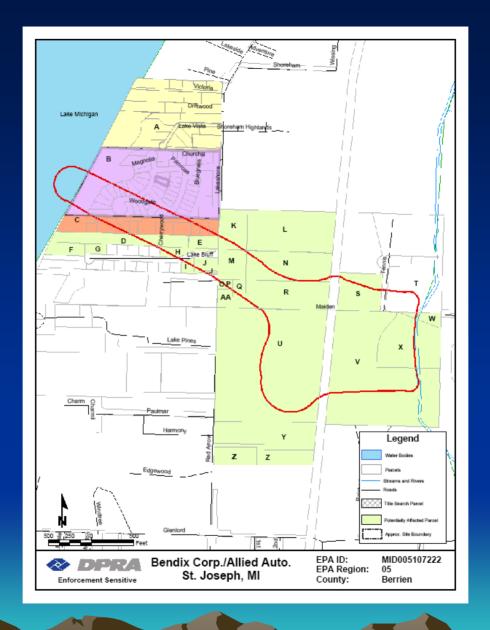
#### IC Plan/ Strategy

- Define Areas Requiring ICs/ Objectives
- Develop Possibilities/Weigh Options
- Use Existing Governmental Controls/ Explore new Gov. Controls
- Enforcement to Require Restrictive Covenants
- Informational Tools/ Notices To Real Estate Community/ Residents/ County Recorders Office

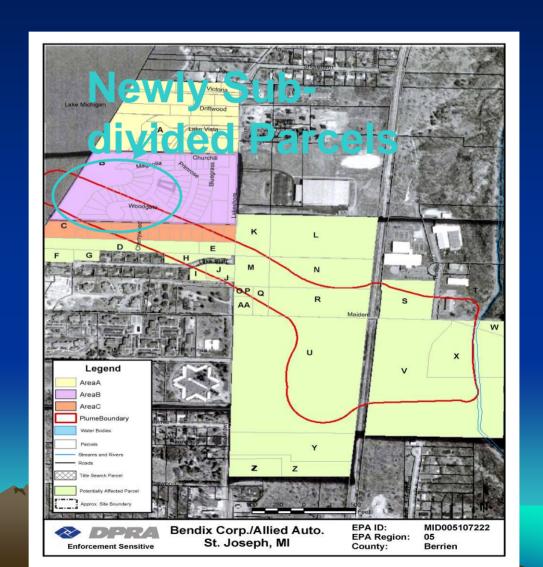


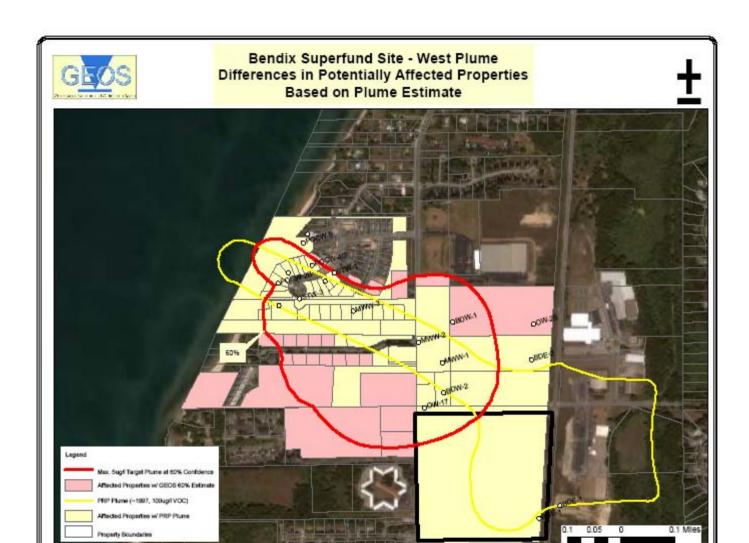


# EXAMPLE GROUNDWATER PLUME ISSUES

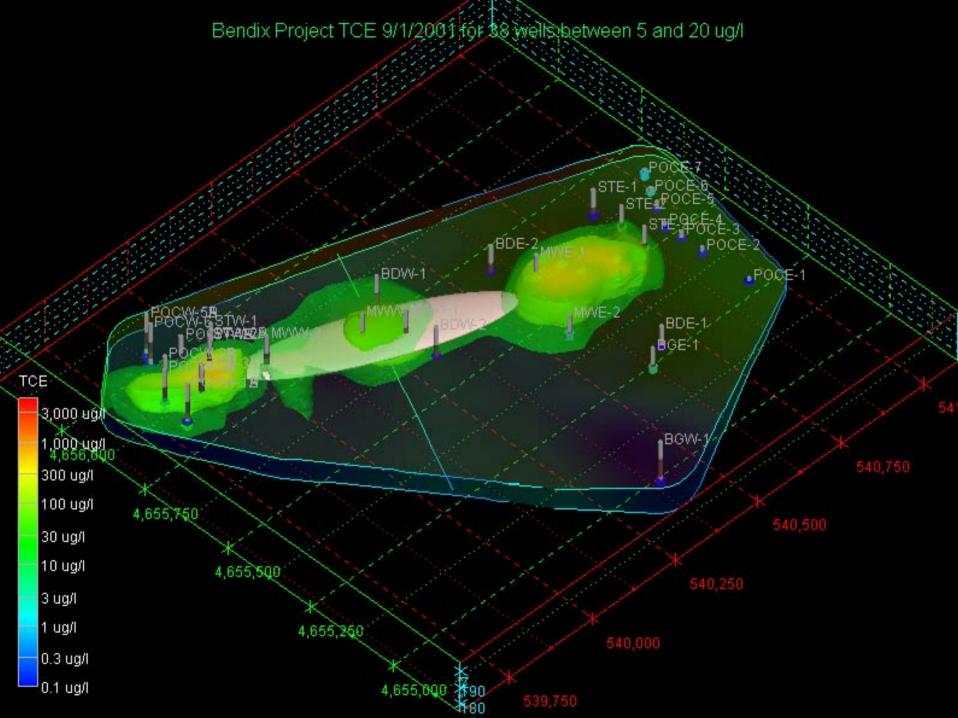


## "Off-Site" Groundwater May Contaminate Numerous Parcels





Plot Prepared by Andrea Porter, US EPA Region 5, 2/3/06



#### IN CONCLUSION

- Non-source contamination provides unique challenges for ICs
  - or IC identification,
  - implementation,
  - monitoring and
  - enforcement